

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to initial and return the PTO 1449 form filed with the Information Disclosure Statement of August 14, 2001, to indicate his consideration of the references listed thereon.

Claims 2-7 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 3-5 are allowed.

In the current Office Action, claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over newly-cited Seiji (JP 10-229288) in view of newly-cited Ogawa (JP 09-129766). Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seiji in view of previously-cited Hiramoto (JP 411087610).

Applicants herein cancel claims 2, 6, and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot all claim rejections and placing the present application in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/419,787

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

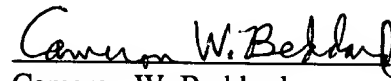
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